



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Monday February 27, 2006 -- 05-010  
**District:** District 2 - Redding  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **State Route 299 Burnt Ranch Work Sliding to an End**

**REDDING** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reports crews are nearing completion on the McDonald Bluff, Burnt Ranch slide project. After six, twenty-four hour seven-day work weeks battling this slide, crews wrapped up scaling efforts on Saturday February 26, 2006.

Roadway cleanup and repairs continue, and guardrail replacement is scheduled for this week, weather permitting. Although Caltrans engineers are confident the slope is more stable now than prior to the storm that activated the slide on December 29, 2005, they will continue to monitor the slope throughout the cleanup process due to anticipated storm activity in the area.

The project, located on State Route (SR) 299, one-half mile west of Burnt Ranch near the Trinity/Humboldt county line, was quite dangerous due to the size and quantity of rock. The severe instability of the slope forced Caltrans to close SR 299 numerous times for periods of two hours or more, frustrating both motorists and construction crews.

Due to the movement of the slide, normal scaling operations were discounted in favor of heavy equipment. For the safety of the crew, Ron Jurin Construction came up with an innovative and efficient way to remove the most material while keeping crew members out of the way of falling material.

The Shark, as it came to be called, is a 12-foot, 2,000lb steel I-Beam with shark-like fins welded on. Using a swing yarder, traditionally employed on logging operations, the shark was dragged up and down the slope to dislodge the loose material while crew members remained safely out of the way.

To date an estimated 80,000 cubic yards of material have been removed, exceeding original estimates by 275 percent while project costs near \$2 million.

For information on road conditions and chain controls go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/> or call 1-800-GAS-ROAD

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**NOTE:** *An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address:* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm)

